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Readers" (1864) I state that the bald eagle, "with wings nearly closed, darts headlong into the water for his prey, in the general manner of the fish-hawk."

There was an eagle's nest high up on a large buttonwood (*Platanus*, ignorantly termed sycamore in some localities), on an island in the Susquehanna, about ten miles above Columbia, Pennsylvania, and in sight from my father's house, about a mile distant, where I had abundant opportunities to observe the fish-hawk, and the eagle robbing him; but sometimes failing to secure the fish, because its possessor dropped it before the eagle was near enough to seize it in its fall toward the water or the ground: for in the latter case, which was rare, I have observed the eagle to turn away without attempting to seek the fish on the earth.

When there are no fish-hawks to depend on, the eagle fishes for himself, taking the fish (if I remember rightly) with the feet, and leaving the water with apparent difficulty, and a good deal of flapping, which accords with the habits of the East Indian species. — S. S. HALDEMAN, *Columbia, Pa.*

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#### MICROSCOPY.

STUDENTS' MICROSCOPE. — We call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of the Students' Microscope, manufactured by the Boston Optical Works. The stand is solid and very convenient, while the lenses are excellent. It is the best and cheapest microscope for general use for the physician and beginner in microscopy now in the market.

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#### EXCHANGES.

Dr. Hermann Loew, of Meseritz (Posen), Prussia, is very desirous of obtaining fresh and well-preserved specimens of North American Diptera. They are very necessary for the completion of his work on the North American Flies, now publishing by the Smithsonian Institution. He will send very fine specimens of European Coleoptera to any Entomologist who will furnish specimens of Diptera in exchange. Packages may be sent through the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

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#### EXPLORATIONS.

Mr. W. H. Dall, of the Scientific Corps of the Western Union Telegraph Company, Russian Extension, writes from St. Michaels, R. Am., Aug. 14, 1867: "I have travelled in winter, with the thermometer from 8° to 40° with dog sleds and snow-shoes, about 300 miles; and

in the summer just past, I have paddled 650 miles up stream under the scorching northern sun, and 1,300 down stream in open canoes. I have made the first trip from Fort Youkon to the sea by the river Youkon ever made, and have geological notes of the whole of this distance, and have collected about 4,550 specimens, including some 300 or 400 birds and mammals, and have got, I hope, some fine new species of white fish.



## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. A. S., Wisconsin. — The worm you send came dried up and impossible to identify. It is probably an *Ascaris*, one of the round intestinal worms. Among the best works on the Microscope are Carpenter on the Microscope, published by Lea & Blanchard, Philadelphia; Queckett's Treatise on the Microscope, London; L. Beale's How to Work with the Microscope, Philadelphia; J. Hogg on the Microscope, London; P. H. Gosse's Evenings with the Microscope, New York. D. Appleton & Co.

W. H. S., Hummelstown, Pa. — The shells appear to be robust specimens of *Physa ancillaria*, Say. The "worm-like animals" are the larvæ of the Caddis-fly, or Case-worm (*Phryganea*), whose larva constructs a case of leaves, or bits of twigs and sticks. The other specimens were young Cray-fish, *Cambarus Bartoni*, commonly found in brooks in the Middle and Southern States. We have found this or an allied species hiding under stones on the edges of cold ponds in northern Maine. On the Aroostook River, they did great damage by undermining a dam, at or near Presque Isle. The Cray-fish has undermined the levee at New Orleans and vicinity, and been instrumental in producing devastating floods on the banks of the Mississippi.

Some spiders have the power of spinning their threads to a great length, which float in the air (the wind drawing the threads from the spinnerets), and catch on adjoining objects, serving as foundations for a web.

A. E., Maryland. — Your Myriapod, which you say "has appeared at this place (Ecton, Md.) within a few years past, and has infested many houses," is the *Cermatia forceps*, Wood. It is found sparingly throughout the Eastern, and especially the warmer parts of the United States. Scarcely anything is known regarding its habits.